

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 NEA-10 SAB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OIC-02 /094 W

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R 191401Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9141

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 5969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY PROPOSAL FOR WESTERN SUMMIT IN SPRING 1977

REFS: A) PARIS 19643 B) VIENNA 5917

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS PUT FORWARD ON

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SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS SUGGESTION FOR HOLDING WESTERN

SUMMIT IN SPRING 1977, FOLLOWING NUMBER OF IMPORTANT NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN WEST. FORESEEN IS CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, US AND CANADA, TO DISCUSS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND TO COORDINATE POLICY FOR BELGRADE 77. REACTION IN WESTERN EUROPE HAS BEEN GENERALLY TEPID, SO FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE. MOTIVATION FOR KREISKY PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE THREEFOLD: POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND PERSONAL. KREISKY CAN BE EXPECTED TO PURSUE IDEA UNLESS CONVINCED IT IS POLITICALLY NONVIALE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS PUT FORWARD ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS INFORMAL PROPOSAL THAT WESTERN DEMOCRACIES HOLD SUMMIT IN SPRING OF 1977. KREISKY FIRST SURFACED IDEA AT SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS IN VIENNA IN SPRING OF 1976. SINCE THEN KREISKY HAS KEPT IDEA BEFORE AUSTRIAN PRESS AND RAISED IN IN COURSE OF HIS JUNE OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE (REFTEL A) AND DURING FOUR-DAY STAY IN AUSTRIA OF FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN EARLY JULY (REFTEL B).

3. ACCORDING TO KREISKY, WESTERN SUMMIT WOULD INCLUDE ATTENDANCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES, INCLUDING NEUTRALS, AND FROM US AND CANADA. DEDICATION OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S NEW HEADQUARTERS IN STRASBOURG, WITH US AND CANADA INVITED AS GUESTS, COULD CONCEIVABLY SERVE AS FORUM FOR SUCH SUMMIT. BASED ON KREISKY'S COMMENTS TO PRESS, PURPOSE OF SUMMIT WOULD BE TO ALLOW WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, FOLLOWING SEVERAL IMPORTANT NATIONAL ELECTIONS, TO GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES (EAST/WEST DETENTE, NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, ETC.) AND TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS IN PREPARATION FOR BELGRADE 77.

4. KREISKY PROPOSAL SEEMS TO HAVE THREEFOLD PURPOSES: POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND PERSONAL. ON POLITICAL SIDE, KREISKY FEELS CERTAIN INATTENTION AND EVEN NEGLECT BY WEST OF AUSTRIAN CONCERNS. LATTER INCLUDED EXCLUSION OF AUSTRIA AND FROM NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, LACK OF WESTERN INTEREST IN KREISKY SUGGESTION ON "REVERSE MARSHALL PLAN"

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FOR LDC'S, AND EC-9 MEASURES WHICH WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. AUSTRIAN CONCERN IS IN PART PROBLEM OF PERCEPTION AND IN PART FEELING THAT MAJOR WESTERN POWERS TAKE AUSTRIA TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED AND THEREBY PREVENT AUSTRIA FROM HAVING ANY EFFECTIVE INPUT INTO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES BY MAJOR WESTERN POWERS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING AUSTRIAN INTERESTS. THIS FEELING IN TURN HAS GIVEN RISE TO WHAT

IS SEEN BY KREISKY AS NEED TO ALIGN AUSTRIA CLOSER TO
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN POWERS, PARTICULARLY
IN VIEW OF IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. LOGICAL WAY TO DO THIS,
ACCORDING TO CHANCELLOR, WOULD BE TO HAVE AUSTRIA TAKE
PART IN WESTERN SUMMIT.

5. KREISKY DESIRES WESTERN SUMMIT ALSO FOR IDEOLOGICAL
REASONS. HE SENSES POSSIBILITY OF IDEOLOGICAL SHIFTS
TAKING PLACE IN EUROPEAN POLITICAL SCENE IN NEXT FEW
YEARS AND WHILE HE HAS ARTICULATED JUST THE OPPOSITE,
HE IS NOT QUITE CERTAIN OF OUTCOME OF IDEOLOGICAL
STRUGGLE IN KEY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (E.G. ITALY
AND FRANCE) WITH POSSIBLE NEGATIVE POLITICAL FALLOUT
SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE FOR AUSTRIA. KREISKY'S
THINKING IS THAT SUMMIT WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO SET
OUT FORCEFULLY VIEWS ON DEMOCRATIC, PLURALISTIC SOCIETIES;
COORDINATE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE FURTHER GROWTH OF
DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE AND, IN CASE OF NEUTRALS,
PROVIDE IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR NEUTRALS' REAFFIRMING IDENTITY
WITH WESTERN CAMP. SUMMIT WOULD ALSO HELP COUNTER NEAR
MONOPOLY OF COMMUNISTS IN EUROPEAN EXERCISES OF PROJECTING

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UNITY AND STRENGTH, ACCORDING TO KREISKY.

6. FINALLY, ON PERSONAL SIDE, WESTERN SUMMIT WITH AUSTRIAN ATTENDANCE WOULD PROVIDE KREISKY WITH SUITABLE STAGE TO PROJECT POSITIVE IMAGE OF SUCCESSFUL STATESMAN, DEALING WITH BIG PROBLEMS OF WORLD. RECENT EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST HAVE SHOWN KREISKY'S INFLUENCE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGLEGIBLE THERE IN SPITE OF HIS VISITS AND EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN LAST TWO YEARS. AT SAME TIME KREISKY HAS BECOME BIT MORE WARY OF ANY INCREASED AUSTRIAN IDENTIFICATION WITH THIRD WORLD. OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES MAY BE ARRANGED AT ANY TIME BUT HERE TOO KREISKY SEEMS TO THINK FURTHER ACTIVITY IN THAT DIRECTION NOW WOULD BE UNHELPFUL TO AUSTRIA OR TO HIS PERSONAL IMAGE. IN CONTRAST, WESTERN SUMMIT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN REFOCUSING KREISKY IMAGE AND IN GENERATING MORE COMFORTABLE FEELING AMONG AUSTRIANS THAT WEST CARES ABOUT THEM AND THEIR FUTURE.

7. REACTION TO KREISKY SUGGESTION HAS BEEN VAGUE AND GENERALLY NONCOMMITTAL IN WESTERN EUROPE, SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE. FRENCH REACTION SEEMED TO BE ONE OF "POLITE INDIFFERENCE", ACCORDING TO OUR READING OF REFTEL A AND AUSTRIA PRESS REPORTING ON VISIT. FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RESPONSE TO KREISKY IDEA SEEMED UNENTHUSIASTIC BUT SCHMIDT DID PROMISE TO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS IN EC-9 ON PROPOSAL. THERE WAS ALSO REPORT FROM NEW YORK THAT AUSTRIAN UN PERMREP AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH RECENTLY PUT KREISKY SUGGESTION BEFORE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER WHO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR IDEA, ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN PRESS.

8. KREISKY CAN BE EXPECTED IN COMING MONTHS TO
PRESIST IN PURSUING HIS SUGGESTION OF WESTERN SUMMIT,
UNLESS CONVINCED TO CONTRARY THAT IT IS POLITICALLY
NONVIABLE. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENNA05969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0426
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760743/aaaable.tel
Line Count: 228
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 19643, 76 VIENNA 5917
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KREISKY PROPOSAL FOR WESTERN SUMMIT IN SPRING 1977
TAGS: PFOR, AU, US, CA, XT, (KREISKY, BRUNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006